CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A digital camera, comprising:

a photoelement array for acquiring image data;

a memory for saving said image data;

a processor in communication with said memory;

a display in communication with said processor for exhibiting said image data;

a plurality of navigation buttons;

a plurality of operational buttons; and

program code stored in said memory and executed by said processor, said

program code comprising a menu navigation interface module for

allowing a user to select one of a plurality of menu options in response

to the invocation of one of said navigation buttons, so that the

functionality of said plurality of navigation buttons changes from a first

set of navigation button operating functions to a second set of

navigation button operating functions which correspond to a plurality

of menu functions associated with a selected menu.

2.   The digital camera of claim 1, wherein said program code further comprises:

a first code segment for demarcating one of a plurality of menu options

displayed on said display, said demarcation representing a selection of

one of said menu options.

1   3. The digital camera of claim 2, wherein said demarcation is

2 directionally moved among said plurality of menu options using said navigation

3 buttons.

1   4. The digital camera of claim 3, wherein one of said navigation buttons

2 is used to exit from said menu.

1   5. The digital camera of claim 3, wherein said demarcation is bi-

2 directionally moved using a pair of said navagation buttons.

1   6. The digital camera of claim 5, wherein said pair of navigation buttons

2 comprises an up navigation and down navigation button.

1   7. The digital camera of claim 3, wherein said selection of said option is

2 confirmed by the user through invocation of said operational button invoked to

3 provide said menu.

1   8. The digital camera of claim 1, further comprising:

2 means for communicating image data to a remote device.

1   9. A digital camera, comprising:

2 capturing means for acquiring image data;

3 storage means for saving said image data;

4 processing means in communication with said storage means;

5   display means in communication with said processing means for exhibiting

6   said image data;

7   a navigation means;

8   operation activation means; and

9   program code stored in said storage means and executed by said processing

10   means for manipulating said image data, said program code comprising

11   a menu navigation interface module for allowing a user to select one of

12   a plurality of menu options in response to the invocation of said

13   navigation means, so that the functionality of said navigation means

14   changes from a first set of navigation operating functions to a second

15   set of navigation operating functions which correspond to a plurality of

16   menu functions associated with a selected menu.

1   10.   The digital camera of claim 9, wherein said menu navigation interface

2 module comprises:

3   a first code segment for demarcating one of said options displayed on said

4   display, said demarcation representing a selection of said option.

1   11.   The digital camera of claim 10, further comprising navigation means

2 for moving said demarcation among said menu of options.

1   12.   The digital camera of claim 11, wherein said operation activation

2 means is a plurality of operational buttons and said navigation means is a plurality of

3 navigation buttons, wherein one of said navigation buttons is used to exit from said

4 menu of options, status and information dialogs.

1   13.   The digital camera of claim 12, wherein said selection of said option is

2 confirmed by the user through invocation of said operational button invoked to

3 provide said menu.

1   14.   The digital camera of claim 12, further comprising:

2   a second code segment for providing an icon representative of said navigation

3   buttons on said display.

1   15.   The digital camera of claim 14, wherein said icon comprises:

2   a pair of opposing arrows with each arrow uniquely representing a logical

3   scroll direction.

1   16.   The digital camera of claim 15, wherein said icon further comprises:

2   a third arrow representing said navigation button used to exit from said menu.

1   17.   The digital camera of claim 9, further comprising:

2   means for communicating image data to a remote device.

1   18.   An interface method for invoking the operation of a digital camera

2 having a built-in display, comprising the steps of:

3   selecting one of a plurality of menus in response to an invocation of one of a

4   plurality of functional buttons; and

5   changing the functionality of a plurality of navigation buttons in response to

6   selecting one of said menus from a first set of navigation button

7   operating functions to a second set of navigation button operating

8   functions, such that said second set of navigation button operating

9   functions correspond to a plurality of menu functions associated with

10   said selected menu.

1   19.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

2   displaying an icon representative of at least one of said plurality of navigation

3   buttons on a display.

1   20.   The method of claim 18, wherein the step of selecting one of a plurality

2   of menus is made in response to an invocation of one of a plurality of operational

3   buttons.

1   21.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of exiting said

2   menu in response to an invocation of one of said plurality of navigation buttons and

3   the step of changing the functionality of said plurality of navigation buttons to said

4   first set of navigation button operating functions is made in response to the step of

5   exiting.

1   22.   The method of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

2   communicating image data to a remote device.

1   23.   A computer readable medium having a program for manipulating

2   image data acquired by a digital camera, said program code comprising:

3   logic configured for displaying a plurality of menus, each one of said plurality

4   of menus comprising at least one option displayed on a display, said

5   options corresponding to operations capable of execution by said

6   digital camera;

7   logic configured for demarcating one of said options, said demarcation

8   representing a user selection of said option;

9   logic configured for associating a first set of operating button operating

10   functions with a plurality of operating buttons, such that said first set of

11   operating button operating functions corresponds to a first menu

12   selected from said plurality of menus;

13   logic configured for associating a second set of operating button operating

14   functions with said plurality of operating buttons, such that said second

15   set of operating button operating functions corresponds to a second

16   menu selected from said plurality of menus; and

17   logic configured for processing a user selection of one of said options.

1   24.   The computer readable medium of claim 23, wherein said plurality of

2   operating buttons are a plurality of navigation buttons.

25.   The computer readable medium of claim 24, further comprising:

logic configured for moving said demarcation in response to a logical scroll

       direction entered by the user through one of a plurality of navigation

       buttons.

26.   The computer readable medium of claim 25, further comprising:

logic configured for exiting said menu of options in response to an invocation

       of one of said plurality of navigation buttons by the user.

27.   The computer readable medium of claim 26, further comprising:

logic configured for providing an icon representative of said navigation

       buttons on said display.

28.   The computer readable medium of claim 23, further comprising:

logic configured for communicating image data to a remote device.